

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please substitute amended claims 1, 7, and 16 as follows for the pending claims with the same number:

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1. (AMENDED) A method of parametric design of an instrument panel support structure for an instrument panel in a vehicle comprising the steps of:  
    selecting a vehicle body structure for the vehicle from a library stored in a memory of a computer system;  
    orienting an occupant within the vehicle body;  
    locating an instrument support structure relative to the vehicle body;  
    determining an input parameter, wherein the input parameter is a three dimensional coordinate defining the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle;  
    electronically generating a parametric design of the instrument panel support structure using the input parameter;  
    determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure meets a predetermined criteria using a computer-aided analytical technique; and  
    modifying the input parameter if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure does not meet the predetermined criteria.

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7. (AMENDED) A method of parametric design of an instrument panel support structure for a vehicle comprising the steps of:  
    selecting a vehicle body structure for the vehicle from a library stored in a memory of a computer system;

orienting an occupant within the vehicle body;

locating a steering column relative to the vehicle body;

determining an input parameter, wherein the input parameter is a three dimensional coordinate defining the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle body;

electronically generating a parametric design of the instrument panel support structure using the orientation of the occupant, the location of the steering wheel, and the input parameter;

comparing the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure to a predetermined criteria using a computer-aided analytical technique;

varying an input parameter to meet the predetermined criteria; and

regenerating the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure.

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16. (AMENDED) A method of parametric design of an instrument panel support structure for an instrument panel in a vehicle comprising the steps of:

selecting a vehicle body style for the vehicle from a vehicle library stored in a memory of a computer system;

orienting an occupant within the vehicle body;

orienting a steering column within the vehicle body;

selecting a parameter for locating an instrument panel support structure within the vehicle body;

selecting a parameter for attaching the instrument panel support structure within the vehicle body;

selecting a predetermined condition for the instrument panel support structure within the vehicle body;

electronically generating a parametric design of an instrument panel support structure using the locating parameter, the attaching parameter and the predetermined condition;

packaging an instrument panel component within the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure;

determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure meets a predetermined criteria using a computer-aided analytical technique;

determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure should be changed if the predetermined criteria is not met;

determining if a parameter should be changed if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure should be changed; and

modifying the parameter if the parameter should be changed.

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